

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/072,998

Examiner

Laura K. Roth

Applicant(s)

NISHIKINO ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 24 April 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-83.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/4/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-83 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- Prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a fixing member to secure said attachment member to said drive shaft, said at least one through hole of said attachment strip being formed so as to have an elongation so that a position at which the pulley is attached to the drive shaft is adjustable” in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 1-18, 22-30, 45-60 and 68-83.
- Prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed “said attachment member having a strip fixed thereto and having at least one through hole formed therein... said at least one through hole... being formed so as to have an elongation” in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 19-21.
- Prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a fixing member to secure said attachment member to said drive shaft, said at least one through hole being formed so as to have an elongation so that a position at which the pulley is attached to the drive shaft is adjustable” in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 61-67.

Art Unit: 2852

- Prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a fixing member is securable to the drive shaft... said at least one attachment hole being formed to have an elongation so that a position... attached to the drive shaft is adjustable” in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 31-37.
- Prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a fixing member to secure said attachment member to said drive shaft... at least one through hole of said attachment strip being formed so as to have an elongation so that a position at which the pulley is attached to the drive shaft is adjustable” in combination with the remaining claim elements as set forth in claims 38-44.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Hasegawa et al. (JP Pub. 2002-317867) discloses a nearly identical device; however, the reference was published after the filing date of the instant application.

Contact Information

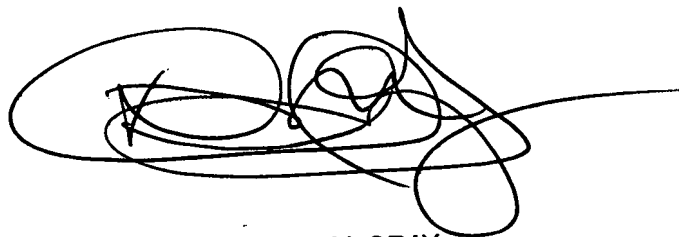
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura K. Roth whose telephone number is (571)272-2154. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Art Unit: 2852

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David M. Gray can be reached on (571)272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LKR/
6/27/2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DAVID M. GRAY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER